

**AMENDEDMENT****CLAIMS**

5        1. (Amended) X-ray photographic equipment having an image correction means for improving picture quality of an X-ray photographic image by correcting dispersion in brightness of the [an] image obtained by taking an X-ray photograph of a subject body, using a pixel correction factor acquired from a brightness data representing gradation of an image obtained by taking an X-ray photograph of a  
10      reference subject.

2. (Amended) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein said pixel correction factor for improvement of picture quality acquired from the brightness data representing gradation of the image obtained by taking  
15      the X-ray photograph of said reference subject is set therein for each pixel individually.

3. The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein a value acquired by dividing a predetermined brightness reference value with a  
20      brightness value of each pixel in the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject is used as a pixel correction factor for said pixel.

4. (Amended) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 3,  
25      wherein said image correction means for improving picture quality corrects

brightness of each pixel by multiplying a brightness value of said pixel in the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said subject body by said pixel correction factor of the corresponding pixel acquired by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject.

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5. The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein a value acquired by dividing an average value of brightness of the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject with the brightness value of each pixel is used as a pixel correction factor for said pixel.

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6. (Amended) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 5, wherein said image correction means for improving picture quality corrects brightness of each pixel by multiplying a brightness value of said pixel in the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said subject body by said pixel correction factor of the corresponding pixel acquired by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject.

20 7. The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein a value acquired by dividing a representative value of brightness of the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject with the brightness value of each pixel is used as a pixel correction factor for said pixel.

25 8. (Amended) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 7, wherein said image correction means for improving picture quality corrects brightness of each pixel by multiplying a brightness value of said pixel in the

image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said subject body by said pixel correction factor of the corresponding pixel acquired by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject.

5           9. (Amended) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein urethane resin for typifying a soft-tissue equivalent material representing muscles and adipose tissue [, composed of urethane resin and the like,] is used as a reference subject for acquiring said pixel correction factor for improvement of picture quality.

10           10. (Amendment) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein any of epoxy resin and aluminum typifying a bone-tissue equivalent material [composed of epoxy resin, aluminum and the like] is used as a reference subject for acquiring said pixel correction factor for improvement of picture quality.

11. (Amendment) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 2 comprising a storage means for storing a pixel correction factor for each pixel obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject, and a correction factor setting means for setting a pixel correction factor, other than ordinary X-ray photography, in order to acquire said pixel correction factor, wherein said X-ray photographic equipment can be operated for resetting a pixel correction factor for improvement of picture quality at an arbitrary timing when said equipment is first installed, when a user determines it necessary, and so on.

12. X-ray photographic equipment comprising:

a storage means for storing a pixel correction factor for each pixel obtained by taking an X-ray photograph of a reference subject;

5        a correction factor setting means for setting a pixel correction factor, other than ordinary X-ray photography, in order to acquire said pixel correction factor; and

10      a correction means for correcting brightness of an image obtained by taking an X-ray photograph of a subject body using said pixel correction factor, wherein said storage means stores three sorts of pixel correction factors obtained by dividing each of three values by a brightness value of said pixel, said three values being an average value and a representative value of brightness of an image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said reference subject, and a predetermined reference brightness value , and

15      said correction factor setting means selects one pixel correction factor among said three sorts of pixel correction factors when making correction of brightness of the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said subject body.

13. X-ray photographic equipment comprising:

20        a storage means for storing a pixel correction factor for each pixel obtained by taking an X-ray photograph of a reference subject;

      a correction factor setting means for setting a pixel correction factor, other than ordinary X-ray photography, in order to acquire said pixel correction factor; and

25        a correction means for correcting brightness of an image obtained by

taking an X-ray photograph of a subject body using said pixel correction factor,

wherein said storage means stores two sorts of pixel correction factors corresponding to a soft-tissue equivalent material and a bone-tissue equivalent material by taking photographs of said two equivalent materials, and

5       said correction factor setting means selects one pixel correction factor between said two sorts of pixel correction factors when making correction of brightness of the image obtained by taking the X-ray photograph of said subject body.

10       14. (Amendment) The X-ray photographic equipment as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of X-ray image sensors are arranged in a manner that a portion of an image-capture area of each said sensor [photographed image] overlaps with one another, in order to take an X-ray image of an expanded size without an error of brightness in the overlapped portion.

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